

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

In the Office Action mailed May 4, 2007, claims 1-81 are pending. Claims 1-42 and 74-81 are withdrawn. Claims 43-73 were rejected. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Specification

Per the Examiner's request, a substitute abstract of the disclosure has been submitted. The amendments do not add any new matter. The Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35. U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 43-73 are rejected under 35. U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,859,661 to Tuke (hereinafter "Tuke"). Applicants respectfully assert that Tuke does not anticipate the existing claims because the Tuke patent is not a 102(e) reference. The earliest effective filing date for Tuke is January 23, 2002, however, the current application was filed March 17, 2001, prior to the earliest effective filing date of Tuke. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the current claims under Tuke be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

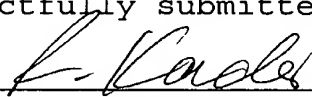
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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